

childhood education does need to be expanded. They're finding that kindergarten classes many times are composed of young people, some of whom have been exposed to lots of good experiences at home where they already know the letters, the number, can read, know what computers are, compared with some individuals who enter school literally don't even know what their last name is. Don't know their address, have very poor language skills, are not able to communicate effectively and that those students who come to school without these skills are at a distinct disadvantage. That's the problem we're dealing with. Historically, all of the new or the great society programs of the mid-sixties, whether you agree with them or disagree with them, people that evaluate them will point to one that there is a fair degree of unanimity that worked and that is the Head Start Program, and that's what the Head Start Program did, take economically disadvantaged young people prior to the time that they enter kindergarten, not put them in homes, not put them in full day school programs but provide them some exposure to the socialization concepts and the early sort of learning concepts so that they will be ready for school when they entered school and that program seems to have worked. As I indicated, there seems to be a consensus in the profession that early childhood education is the place where we should be concentrating our efforts. Two ways, historically, legislatures can deal with things we would like to see public schools do more of. One of those is we could pass a bill in here that mandates that every school district in the state set up an early childhood program and mandate that all children in the state participate in that program. We found, historically, . . . and then we could also do the third thing that we do so well is tell them, find your own way to fund it, we don't have any money to fund it. We found that that way of dealing with education innovation probably doesn't work particularly well. We're using an alternate approach in 567, that approach is one of doing two things basically, creating in the Department of Education a training center to provide some technical assistance for school districts that wish to set up early childhood programs so we'll have some expertise that they can go to to help make these programs work well for them. The second thing we are doing in this bill is providing grants, pilot programs, four of them, for \$100,000 each to school districts that create early childhood programs that can serve as model programs. That will accomplish two things. Hopefully, it will get a lot of school districts in the state competing for these grants in such a way that they will be able to actually think through on a local level how they